



NEWS

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**GARY TAYLOR NAMED U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DEPUTY ASSISTANT DIRECTOR**

Gary Taylor recently was named deputy assistant director of External Affairs for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service by Service Assistant Director for External Affairs Dan Ashe. Taylor was formerly legislative director of the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA) and has more than 20 years' experience working nationally and with individual states on many important wildlife and natural resource issues.

"The Service is very fortunate to have such an experienced professional join our ranks," said Ashe. "Gary's close association with state wildlife and natural resource agencies--our partners in wildlife conservation--will be a tremendous asset to the Service. I know he will provide excellent leadership and make lasting contributions to the efforts of our External Affairs office, which handles many programs vital to the Service's day-to-day work--and its future."

"I very much appreciate the opportunity Assistant Director Ashe has given me to solidify the relationship between the Service and the states on fish and wildlife conservation issues," Taylor said. "Both of us believe we can best advance fish and wildlife conservation objectives for citizens by working collaboratively with the states, local governments, and private landowners. I look forward to fulfilling that objective with Assistant Director Ashe and the Service."

Taylor joins the Service after spending more than 6 years as legislative director of IAFWA, which represents the 50 state fish and wildlife agencies. There, he monitored U.S. Congress' legislative activity on fish and wildlife and other conservation and public lands issues and represented the association's views before Congress. Among Taylor's accomplishments are his contributions to passage of the 1997 National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act, the 1997 Sikes Act Improvements, and the conservation title of the 1996 Farm Bill.

Much of Taylor's professional experience developed through work with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, where he was employed for 18 years prior to joining IAFWA. He served as the department's director of wildlife from 1986 to 1991, Nongame and Endangered Species Program manager from 1977 to 1986, as Nongame and Endangered Species Project leader from 1976 to 1977, and as a district wildlife manager from 1973 to 1976. In 1982, he

received a Commendable Service Award from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for his efforts as leader of recovery teams for both the Delmarva fox squirrel and the Chesapeake Bay population of bald eagles.

In 1990 and 1991, Taylor served as an adjunct faculty member of the Johns Hopkins University School of Continuing Studies, where he co-developed a credited certificate program in environmental sciences and designed and taught a course entitled "Public Policy and the Environment."

Taylor holds a bachelor's degree in wildlife conservation and management and a master's degree, both from the University of Maryland. His master's thesis focused on the range and habitat of the Delmarva fox squirrel.

Taylor and his wife reside in Stevensville, Maryland. He enjoys reading, bird hunting, listening to classical music, and hiking with his dogs.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service External Affairs office provides oversight of a number of divisions and programs that provide vital communications links between the Service and the public, including key wildlife and natural resource constituents. These include national outreach, public affairs, Federal Aid programs, Native American affairs, the Duck Stamp program, the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council, and congressional and legislative services. Nationally, there are External Affairs offices in each of the Service's regions, in addition to the Washington, DC, offices.

The Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting, and enhancing fish and wildlife and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages more than 94 million acres of land and water consisting of 512 national wildlife refuges, 65 national fish hatcheries, 38 wetland management districts with waterfowl production areas, and 50 wildlife coordination areas.

The agency enforces Federal wildlife laws, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, administers the Endangered Species Act, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Aid program that distributes Federal excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state wildlife agencies. This program is the cornerstone of the Nation's wildlife management efforts, funding fish and wildlife restoration, boating access, hunter education, shooting ranges, and related projects across America.